

USE OF SURPLUS GRAINS TO PREVENT WATERFOWL DEPREDATIONS

MAY 24, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SPENCE, from the Committee on Banking and Currency, sub-
mitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 7641]

The Committee on Banking and Currency, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7641), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with Federal and non-Federal agencies in the prevention of waterfowl depredations, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendment strikes out all after the enacting clause of the introduced bill, and inserts an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The text of the matter inserted appears in *italic type* in the bill herewith reported to the House.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The bill as reported authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to requisition from Commodity Credit Corporation such wheat, corn, and other grains as the Commodity Credit Corporation certifies to be available from its price-support inventories for the purpose of feeding migratory waterfowl such as ducks and geese. The Secretary of the Interior may make the grain available for the feeding of migratory waterfowl directly or through Federal, State, or local governmental bodies or officials or private persons or organizations. Feeding must be so accomplished as to lure waterfowl away from farmers' fields where they are causing crop damage, yet not expose them to shooting.

The Commodity Credit Corporation will be expected to utilize this additional outlet for grains advantageously in the management of its inventories, giving particular attention to the utilization of its older

stocks, especially grain which has so dropped in grade through spoilage and deterioration as not to be desirable for human consumption. As True D. Morse, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, says in his letter of March 9, 1956, to Hon. Brent Spence, chairman of the committee:

In view of the tremendous stocks of wheat under Government ownership and the present likelihood that a substantial portion of these stocks will be continued in storage for an indefinite period of years, any appropriate program for the immediate reduction of such stocks, which will not supplant usage of wheat from other sources, is desirable if a useful purpose is accomplished. To the extent that wheat might be requisitioned under this proposed legislation, CCC would experience a saving on continued storage charges which would probably not be otherwise recoverable.

With respect to grain thus made available, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay packaging, transporting, handling, and other charges to the time of delivery to one or more designated locations in each of the States where it will be used. The Secretary of the Interior, from funds available to him, will reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for its expenses in packaging and transporting such grain. In addition, the bill authorizes an appropriation for the purpose of reimbursing the Corporation for its investment in the grain so transferred. Such investment will include the Corporation's costs other than those packaging and transportation costs for which it is directly reimbursed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Corporation will make the grain available in advance of such appropriation.

In a letter to Hon. Brent Spence, chairman of the committee, Wesley A. D'Ewart, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, made the following comments regarding the bill:

This proposed legislation offers a procedure that should be of material assistance in solving the problem of protecting agricultural crops in those areas where the impact of a large migratory waterfowl population creates a special problem. This problem has become of increasing importance. Drainage of extensive marsh areas, followed by intensive agricultural use of such areas, is continuing to force migratory waterfowl into severe competition with agriculture in many regions of the country. This conflict between agriculturists and depredating waterfowl is particularly acute in the wintering areas of waterfowl. The moderate climate of these latitudes, in addition to being attractive to the birds, permits extensive cropping of the land.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior, in his letter previously referred to, assured the committee that the feeding of depredating waterfowl with grain to be made available to the Department from stocks acquired through price support operations would be conducted carefully under regulations prescribed by the Department and any feeding program authorized during the hunting season would be so managed as not to allow the shooting of waterfowl attracted by such feeding.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Upon referral of the bill to the interested departments certain changes were suggested which have been incorporated in the amendment which the committee made to the bill as introduced. With these changes the bill as reported has the approval of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, and the Bureau of the Budget.



CONFIDENTIAL

The report referred to in the bill is a report of the...
 which was received from the...
 about which the committee needs to be fully informed. The...
 that the committee is not...
 of... the Department of... and the... of the...